

OBITUARY.

HERBERT CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON.

Herbert Christopher Robinson, who was born in Liverpool in 1874 and became a member of the Society in 1911, died in 1929 at Oxford after a long illness. His active biological career began in 1896 with a visit to Queensland where he made a collection of birds. From 1897 to 1900 he was an assistant in the Liverpool Museum where he collaborated with Dr. H. O. Forbes in the production of catalogues of the important bird collection of the Museum. In 1901 and 1902 he and the late Dr. Nelson Annandale, who became eventually Director of the Zoological Survey of India, were jointly engaged in travel and research in the Malay Peninsula the results of which, both ethnographical and zoological, were published under the title 'Fasciculi Malayenses.' In 1903, Robinson became Curator of the Selangor Museum and Inspector of Fisheries, Federated Malay States, and in 1908, Director of Museums and Fisheries, F.M.S.

Besides his regular duties, he organized and for some years controlled a Meteorological service, primarily in connection with a search for hill-station sites; and he organized, and was in charge of, the Arts and Crafts section of the Malayan Pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition. He retired on pension in February 1926.

Robinson was a man of unusual ability: there were few subjects he could not master in a short time: though later he specialized on mammals and birds of Malaysia, he was possessed of wide knowledge of, and competence in, anthropology, zoology and botany.

Robinson had long planned to produce a set of volumes on the Vertebrate Fauna of the Malay Peninsula, analogous to those of the *Fauna of British India* series and in 1912, there was published under his editorship a volume on the Reptilia and Batrachia by Dr. G. E. Boulenger. It was his intention to produce the other sections in collaboration with the writer of this notice but, the war, the demands made by their current work on the time of both, and the various duties Robinson undertook for Government outside those of his appointment made this impossible, and the task was deferred until his retirement on pension, when it was still further postponed by the request of his Government that he should first produce the less purely systematic work on 'The Birds of the Malay Peninsula' on which he was engaged, when he succumbed to his final illness and of which he completed two of the five volumes projected. Shortly before he became incapacitated, he was elected co-editor of *Ibis*. Under his direction were issued some eleven volumes of the *Journal of the Federated Malay States Museum* which contain many papers written by him.

Though a number of his reports, especially those on the zoology of Siam (of which the most important is perhaps that on 'The Birds of South-west and Peninsular Siam')¹ cannot be overlooked by workers on Burmese zoology as there is much in common to the fauna of the two countries, Robinson wrote few papers on the *Fauna of British India* and contributed none to the Society's Journal. His 'Indian' papers are :—

1. Zoological Results of the Abor Expedition: Mammals. *Rec. Ind. Mus.*, viii, 1913, pp. 85–98.

2. On two new sub-species of squirrel from Southern India. *Rec. Ind. Mus.*, xiii, 1917, pp. 41–2.

3. On two abnormal specimens of Ducks in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India. *Rec. Ind. Mus.*, xv, 1918, pp. 47–8, pl. III.

4. A new race of hare from the Persian Frontier of Mesopotamia. *Rec. Ind. Mus.*, xv, 1918, pp. 49–50.

5. A nominal list of the Scuridae of the Oriental region with a list of the specimens in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India. *Rec. Ind. Mus.*, xv, 1918, pp. 171–254.

6. On the proper name of the Red Jungle-fowl from Peninsular India. *Rec. Ind. Mus.*, xix, 1920, pp. 13–15.

7. Notes on Viverridae. *Rec. Ind. Mus.*, xix, 1920, pp. 175–9.

8. Some remarks on Mr. Stuart Baker's new volume on the Birds in the *Fauna of British India*. *Journ. Asiat. Soc., Bengal*, xviii, 1922, pp. 559–68.

Besides his early visit to Australia and his many journeys in the Malay States, Robinson visited, for the purpose of biological investigation, the Siamese portion of the Malay Peninsula, the Rio-Lingga Islands, Sumatra and Java. He had travelled in India and during the war was on service at Basra: when on furlough he always paid long visits to Switzerland, for mountains had a great attraction for him, but in the East what he perhaps enjoyed most was cruising on inspection in his Fisheries launch.

C. B. K.

JOHN CHAMPION FAUNTHORPE

The Society has been deprived of an active, helpful member and the Indian Civil Service of a great sportsman by the death of Lt.-Col. John Champion Faunthorpe, C.B.E., M.C., A.D.C. to the King. The following is an extract from an obituary notice which appeared in *The Times* of the 4th December 1929 :—

He was a great athlete, excelling in almost every form of strenuous sport, and by collections of large and small mammals, birds, and reptiles he made substantial contributions to the study of natural history.

¹ *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc., Siam*, v, 1921–4, pp. 1–397.